



Hello Hamilton County

July 30, 2007

E-News for Hamilton County citizens and employees

Quote of the week: “Nothing good or great can be done in the absence of enthusiasm.”

~ Tom Peters

Hello Hamilton County is Back!

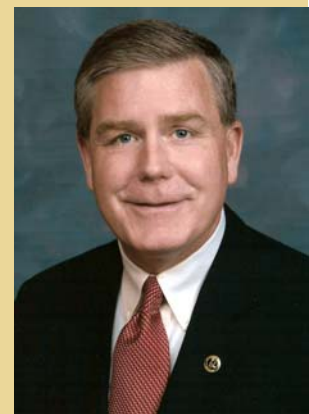
Citizens of Hamilton County and valued Hamilton County employees, we are pleased to bring you **Hello Hamilton County**, an electronic newsletter which will be produced twice per month. **Hello Hamilton County** is designed to inform our citizens and employees about news and events related to Hamilton County government and our community in general.

It is my hope that **Hello Hamilton County** will be a valuable resource to both citizens and the Hamilton County team. Citizens, **Hello Hamilton County** will help you receive timely information from your County government.

Hamilton County employees, **Hello Hamilton County** will provide you with a convenient venue for providing information to the broader community. This newsletter will be produced by Hamilton County Administration, but is up to all of us who work for Hamilton County to help provide information that will make this newsletter informative, enlightening and, hopefully, some fun! If you have ideas or information you would like to include in a future edition, please contact Laura Maus or Eric Stuckey (their contact information is included with the distribution e-mail and at the end of each **Hello Hamilton County** issue).

Thanks and we hope you enjoy this edition!

Patrick Thompson
County Administrator





Banks Rendering, May 2007

Banks Project Takes Major Step Forward

The City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, working together through the Banks Working Group, recently reached a major milestone towards breaking ground on the Banks project. The working group unanimously accepted a development term sheet with the developer team of Carter/Dawson. This term sheet is the framework for the final Banks development deal that will be brought forward to the Cincinnati City Council and the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners by the end of summer.

"It is no longer 'if the Banks will happen.' It is no longer even 'when the Banks will be.' After

years of expectations, the future is finally now," stated County Commission President Todd Portune.

The Banks project will be phased east to west, so you'll see the first developments between the Great American Ball Park and the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. Included in the initial phase is at least 300 apartments, 100 condominium units, 70,000 square feet of retail/restaurant/entertainment, and potentially 200,000 square feet or more of "Class A" office space. The development will be constructed on a parking facility. The development of the 40-

acre riverfront park also follows this east to west pattern. The public investment in the project of approximately \$100 million is expected to result in over \$600 million in private investment in the riverfront.

In constructing the project, the City and County are also establishing policies and goals designed to encourage small business opportunities and workforce development. So the community will build the capacity of small businesses and the skills of individual workers along with an exciting new destination and neighborhood on the riverfront. Stay tuned for more news on the Banks Project's progress!



Managed Competition Process Begins for Hamilton County's Printing Services

The Hamilton County Commissioners have approved a managed competition for the county's printing services function. Managed competition is a structured process that involves having county employees compete with outside entities for providing county services. The managed competition process involves:

- Developing a clear set of performance expectations so vendors and employees can submit proposals for providing service that meets those expectations;
- Assisting the employee team in developing a proposal for providing services;
- Establishing an independent evaluation panel to assess proposals from both the public and private sector.

According to Patrick Thompson, County Administrator, "Going through this process is a great opportunity to determine if we are providing this business service in the most cost effective way. Given the current and future budget challenges the County is facing, we will continue to examine how we do business with the goal of increasing efficiencies wherever possible."

Since its creation in the fall of 2005, the Competition and Efficiency Committee (CEC) has assessed a number of county services for the potential for managed competition. The services

include:

- Fire hydrant repair and maintenance
- Telecommunications
- Fleet services
- Facility management

After completing the business case reviews for these services, the CEC recommended that the county continue providing fire hydrant repair and maintenance, telecommunications, and facility management, rather than use a managed competition process. During the assessments, opportunities for productivity and efficiency improvement were identified and real savings achieved. The County was proven to be such a low cost and effective provider of fire hydrant repair and maintenance that several other local jurisdictions have since entered into agreements to have the county provide the service for them. This not only saves money for those jurisdictions, but reduces the unit costs for county fire hydrant repair and maintenance activities.

Printing services is the first activity to be subjected to formal managed competition. For more information about the CEC and to review the entire business case report for printing services, please visit the county website at www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov/hc/bocc_cec.asp.



The Hamilton County Planning and Zoning Department, pictured above, has earned 34 national awards in the last six years!

Hamilton County Planning and Zoning Department Earns Three NACo Awards!

The National Association of Counties (NACo) announced that Hamilton County will receive three Achievement Awards in 2007 for programs initiated by the Hamilton County Planning and Zoning Department. The NACo's Achievement Award Program recognizes innovative programs with measurable results which contribute to and enhance county government in the United States. Achievement awards are conferred to counties that promote responsible, responsive, and effective county government.

The award-winning programs are:

- a. Hamilton County Biotechnology Study: Listening to Biotechnology Leaders
- b. Local Alliance for Nature and Development, Green Building Web Page
- c. Community Action Network Directory: Organizations and Programs Improving Our Community

For more information about the programs, please visit this link:
<http://www.hamilton-co.org/hcrpc/2007NACO.asp>

In the last six years, innovative programs and projects launched by the Planning and Zoning Department (in support of goals established by Hamilton County's Regional Planning Commission and its Planning Partnership) have received 34 national awards!



**HAMILTON COUNTY
GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT**

Drain, Dunk and Protect To Reduce Risk of West Nile Virus

What is West Nile Virus (WNV)?

WNV is a viral disease affecting the central nervous system that can be transmitted to humans by mosquitoes. While 80% of people who are infected with WNV don't show any symptoms at all, others may have mild or severe symptoms, which are listed in the box below.

How can we help reduce the risk of contracting WNV?

The Hamilton County General Health District began testing mosquitoes for WNV in July. When WNV-positive mosquitoes are identified, we will advise residents in those areas about steps they can take to reduce the mosquito population and prevent mosquito bites. They are good steps for us all to follow, and they include:

DRAIN

- During long periods of dry weather, look for those items in your yard that might collect water when it does rain. Clean up litter and check tires, buckets, flower pots, wading pools and similar items that could create standing water and become mosquito breeding sites.
- Frequently change water in bird baths and pet bowls.
- Drain small puddles after heavy rainstorms.

DUNK

- Apply mosquito larvicide, sometimes called mosquito "dunks," to areas of standing water that cannot be drained. The "dunks" are environmentally safe and won't harm pets. Purchase them at your local hardware store.

PROTECT

- Cut your grass and trim shrubbery.
- Make sure screens in windows and doors are tight-fitting and free from defect.
- Wear long sleeves and pants during peak mosquito hours – dawn and dusk.
- Use an EPA-registered insect repellent such as those containing DEET, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus. Follow the directions on the package.

For more information about local WNV activity and prevention, please contact the Hamilton County General Health District at (513) 946-7832 or visit our Web site at www.hamiltoncountyhealth.org.

West Nile Virus Symptoms

Up to 20% of the people infected with WNV have mild symptoms that can last a few days to several weeks. These symptoms can include:

- Fever, headache, body aches, nausea, vomiting, swollen lymph glands, a skin rash on the chest, stomach, and back.

About one in 150 people infected with WNV will develop severe illness. The severe symptoms may last several weeks and neurological effects may be permanent. Symptoms can include:

- High fever, headache, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, vision loss, numbness, paralysis.

If you experience any of these symptoms, contact your physician for evaluation.



A Health District sanitarian collects mosquitoes from a trap, so the mosquitoes can be tested for the West Nile Virus.



Grant Money for Government Interns Benefits Hamilton County

Hamilton County is benefiting this summer from the Murray and Agnes Season-good Good Government Foundation, which provides funds to pay for a college junior, senior, or graduate student to work as an intern with local government.

The Foundation's grant provides students with the opportunity to contribute to the local government while learning about government. Hamilton County's Office of Budget and Strategic Initiatives has received an intern grant this year and is fortunate to have two interns working with them for eight weeks. The interns, Joe Oder and David Steuber, will work on three projects: providing assistance for the creation of the 2007 County Report Card, Researching and analyzing comparable county incarceration rates, and researching and analyzing corrections per diem rates.

Joe Oder is a senior at the University of Cincinnati, majoring in Operations Management. David Steuber is a senior at the University of Connecticut, majoring in Political Science, Economics, and Philosophy.

Having the funds to pay for people to work on projects like these is beneficial for Hamilton County. Other County organizations that are interested in completing an application to request funds for an intern may contact the Murray and Agnes Seasongood Good Government Foundation at 721-2180. Applications are accepted four times each year.



David Steuber and Joe Oder are interns with the Hamilton County Department of Budget and Strategic Initiatives

Please post Hello Hamilton County, so everyone can see what's going on!

Hello Hamilton County is published twice each month. It is designed to inform Hamilton County citizens and employees about news and events related to our county government and our community in general. You can find current editions on the County's web pages. If you have questions, suggestions, or article submissions, please contact Laura Maus or Eric Stuckey.

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